

Focal Spot Newsletter



NEBRASKA
SOCIETY OF
RADIOLOGIC
TECHNOLOGISTS



From the Boardroom

At the upcoming NSRT 2026 Annual Conference, voting members of the NSRT will be voting on a proposed change of wording in the bylaws during the Business Session. This will update our bylaws to match the ASRT changes that were approved at the 2025 ASRT Education Symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting in reference to Membership. Bylaws are used to detail how the society is structured and run. Members will vote to simplify the language of NSRT bylaw Article IV Membership, Section 1 Policy B. The current NSRT bylaw wording is "The NSRT is committed to equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in all programs and activities.

No one shall be denied opportunities or benefits on the basis of age, sex, color, race, creed, national origin, religious persuasion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military status, political belief or disability." With a majority vote, the bylaw will be modified to "The NSRT is committed to equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in all programs and activities." To read the report from the 2025 ASRT Education Symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting, visit the NSRT Homepage to find and read the ASRT Delegate Report from the June 2025 meeting.

Krista Lewis,
MHPTT RT(R)(M)(CT)
NSRT Vice President

In this newsletter you can expect:

National
Radiologic
Technology
Week

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Development

Stories of Impact

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Sharing

Become A Member: www.nsrt.net/become-a-member



Modality Spotlight: Meeting MRI's Growing Demands

The world of radiology has been expanding since its inception in 1895, but as with any industry, there will always be growing pains. In the field of MRI, there is a need for the next generation to take up the mantle. With a geriatric population that is getting larger every day, and an increasing gap in staff to meet this demand, one new solution to this issue could be from the ARRT and the creation of the innovative imaging assistant, (MRI). This offers a start up for individuals interested in the MRI field to gain access and understanding of what MRI technologists do in their day to day job performance. This is a fast tracked focus that has limitations, but can be useful in patient safety and screening so the MRI technologist can focus on the image acquisition. For the imaging assistant credential, 32 continuing education credits that are focused in MRI are needed and 100 repetitions in positioning and screening, without the need for previous radiography experience to become certified (ARRT, 2025).

If the applicant has a previously recognized licensure from the ARRT, then only 17 continuing education credits focused in MRI would be necessary (ARRT, 2025). As a technologist, this initiative does give me hope that we will be able to properly staff departments with growing expectations and demands. However, I must admit that there is also hesitancy, as a fast tracked credential in an area with a magnet that is always on could have some unforeseen repercussions. Safety is always an MRI technologist's first concern. I hope that safety is stressed and passed down to the next generation in whatever way the field needs to grow to meet demands.

Anthony Anderson R.T. (R) (MR)

Reference:

ARRT, A. (2025, August 8). *Introducing the imaging assistant, Magnetic Resonance Credential*. ARRT introducing the imaging assistant, magnetic resonance credential. <https://www.arrt.org/pages/arrt-announces-ia-credential>



NRTW Giveaways

Want to snag an online gift card? Maybe even a free CE?

Simply join in the fun during Rad Tech Week by participating in our exciting activities and engaging with us on Facebook or Instagram. Don't miss out!

Follow us and get ready to win!



@NEBRASKASOCIETYOFRADTECHS



@WWW.NSRT.NET

Important Dates

- **NRTW Proclamation To Be Announced!** Lincoln State Capital
- **Fall CE Saturday Webinar**
October 11, 2025
- **Invisible Heroes Walk/Run Nov 8!**
 - **Omaha:** Meet outside the playground by Kiewit Luminarium 345 Riverfront Drive (9am CST)
 - **Lincoln:** Meet at Holmes Lake North Shore Parking Lot 3 (9am CST)
 - **Scottsbluff:** Meet at the YMCA entrance to the River Pathways (10am MST)
- **NSRT Annual Conference and Job Fair at Heartland Event Center, Grand Island**
April 17-18 offered in-person and webinar

Become a Sponsor!

Become a sponsor and connect your facility with Nebraska's radiologic technologists! By partnering with us, you'll gain direct access to a community of skilled professionals, promote your facility's culture, and have the opportunity to sponsor a speaker or collaborate on an event. Sponsor today and make a lasting impact!

Have a Job Opening? We Can Help

Submit an ad request on our website!



Professional Development

Radiation Safety: Beyond the Badge

We all clip on our dosimeters at the start of every shift. It's a simple and important routine, but that badge only measures what's already happened. Real radiation safety begins before an exposure. It's a mindset, a daily commitment, and a professional standard. The ALARA principles may seem basic, but they safeguard both technologists and patients, reinforcing our ethical duty to deliver quality care without unnecessary risk.

Education plays a vital role. Dose-reduction techniques and updated protocols only matter when we apply them. Simple habits such as verifying technique selection, using proper collimation, and communicating clearly make a measurable difference. Yet true safety also depends on collective accountability. When we see shortcuts or uncertainty, we must speak up. These aren't confrontations; they're collaborative reminders that protect everyone.

The dosimeter tracks dose, not judgment. It can't measure whether we're applying our knowledge or simply going through motions. That responsibility lies with us during every exposure, every decision, and every patient interaction.

Radiation safety isn't just compliance; it's integrity.

Wear your dosimeter—but remember, it measures exposure, not excellence.

Karin Bellows, MHPTT, RT(R) (ARRT)

Restoring the Feedback Loop

Many technologists remember when feedback from radiologists was part of everyday practice. Sometimes it was harsh, sometimes uncomfortable, but it often carried the clear purpose of guiding us toward stronger images, greater accuracy, and a joint accountability for quality. That immediate, direct input reinforced high standards and reminded us that every image matters for patient care and accurate diagnosis.

Today, that dynamic has changed. With digital workflows, telehealth, and remote radiologist coverage, the real-time feedback loop has faded in many institutions. Fewer radiologists are available in person to mentor, and fewer technologists receive consistent feedback. While technology has improved efficiency, it has also created a gap in skill reinforcement.

Research supports what many of us have long felt: without structured feedback, skills can plateau or even decline. Kagoma and colleagues (2018) found that coaching and structured feedback, once inherent in small departments, often disappear as organizations grow. Their *Technologist Coaching Model* reintroduces the learning environment we have lost, emphasizing peer observation, shared standards, and deliberate practice guided by mutual accountability.

That concept applies far beyond academic hospitals. Every department can build its own version of a coaching culture. Whether it's a student learning positioning, a coworker fine-tuning exposure factors, or a peer refining workflow, constructive feedback keeps standards high and confidence strong. When done well, feedback is coaching, and coaching sustains the quality that defines our profession.

Ways to Restore the Feedback Loop:

- Speak up respectfully. Frame corrections as collaboration, not criticism.
- Be specific. Focus on actions, not personalities.
- Model excellence. Demonstrate what "right" looks like.
- Share accountability. Lift one another toward consistency and excellence.

Angela Cyza, BSRT (R) (ARRT)

Reference:

Kagoma YK. "Improving and Maintaining Radiologic Technologist Skill Using a Medical Director Partnership and Technologist Coaching Model." *American journal of roentgenology* : AJR. 211.5 (2018): 986–992. Print.



Techs in Action: Inspiring Stories of Impact

The Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists proudly recognizes Ed McLaughlin as the 2025 Technologist of the Year. Ed’s nomination highlighted his exceptional leadership, mentorship, and service within the profession and community.

At the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Ed was awarded Preceptor of the Year for his dedication to clinical education. He extends opportunities for students to gain more in-depth experiences, teaching them not only the skills of imaging but also how to advocate for patients. Colleagues noted that many students would not have succeeded in the profession without his guidance, patience, and compassion.


Ed’s impact extends beyond radiology. His service in the military, his role as a church usher, participation in outreach programs, and mentoring through youth sports demonstrate his lifelong commitment to service and mentorship.

His nomination praised his ability to transform even the most hesitant students into confident technologists, modeling excellence in both patient care and professional growth. Ed’s dedication, kindness, and leadership make him a role model for the profession and a most deserving recipient of this year’s honor.

Do you know a technologist who goes above and beyond? Nominate them for recognition and help us celebrate those making a difference in our profession.

Submit Your Nomination Here:






Join the NSRT team for the 2025 ASRT Invisible Heroes Virtual Walk/Run on November 8 at 9am CST!

Walk with a local group or from home! Meet-up details in the “Important Dates” section! When registering, select “Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists” as your team. **(password: NSRT)**